EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS CPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED BYERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TRLEGRAPH.

HOMES IN THE CITY. From the N. Y. Tribune

When Mr. Alexander T. Stewart builds his prejected houses for working people, we hope he will endow them upon commercial princi-ples similar to the Peabody trusts and Sir Sydney Waterlow's Company in London. The British metropolis, under the transforming influences of railways and skilful labor, has changed so much with the last quarter of a century as to furnish a fair parallel to the growth and expansion of this city. In both cities like causes have destroyed street after street of workingmen's lodgings, and given them up to large manufactories and immense commercial houses. In London, as in New York, dwelling-houses of a higher class have multiplied indefinitely, while small tenements, so far from increasing, too often fall before the march of improvement. Everybody is aware of the effect of this policy in this city, where, year after year, increased rents are demanded for poorer lodgings. A workingman whose weekly earnings are from \$18 to \$30 per week cannot find a comfortable dwelling anywhere upon the island at a rent at all within his means, and the consequence is that he is driven from the city altogether, or compelled to submit to all the inconveniences and annoyances of lower class tenements. Where a man can place his family in a snug little home in one of the surrounding villages, he will find himself better off than in contending against the exactions of landlords in the city; but many persons are so situated that they cannot get out of town, though it is degradation and death to stay in it. To this latter class Mr. Stewart's dwellings, and others which would be sure to follow from his example, would prove a benefaction without being a charity, and stimulate toil by offering a reward to manly independence.

Mr. Peabody's Trusts now amount to £350,-000. The original fund was a gift of £150,000. With this the trustees have already completed dwellings for 1971 persons, or 400 families, and the plan being reproductive, they have besides a surplus of £20,000. Every tenant in the Peabody Buildings is fully master of his own house, and his seclusion and privacy are as secure as in the dwellings in the adjacent streets. The sanitary conditions of the buildings have been found to be excellent, and the habits of the occupants for cleanliness and order have improved in a marked degree. The terms are all within the means of workingmen, and the general favor with which the scheme is received is apparent from the numerous applications for every vacancy. The new trusts embraced in Mr. Peabody's recent gifts will greatly accelerate the progress of the trustees in carrying forward the object of the benefactions. Sir Sydney Waterlow's Company now house about 4000 persons. This company has advanced more rapidly than the other because the Peabody Trust only extends itself out of its own profits, while the Waterlow Company obtains loans from Government to erect other buildings on the security of buildings already erected. Other companies in London have adopted a similar policy, and the progress made toward the removal of a crying evil is described as very great, even in that great metropolis. In New York we are convinced the effect must prove even more beneficial than in London. The adaptability of our metropolitan population renders the plan peculiarly feasible here, and the want of fair accommodations at a fair price is so grievously felt that Mr. Stewart could not inaugurate his project at a better

A radical defect in all attempts at improving found in the fact that we have hitherto provided charities which could only be accepted by the very base or the very unfortunate classes of the community. There has been no endeavor to provide workingmen with homes where they can live in comfort for a reasonable rent, and in this way to prevent well-disposed people from becoming bad. What we need are great public benefactions which shall not be charities. In this country we have one peculiar illustration in point-that of a widespread religious communion in which poverty and charity are alike unknown. The German Baptists, or Dunkers, as they are usually called, together with the Mennonites and other sects with similar tenets, embrace a membership of 100,000 people in Pennsylvania and the West; and yet in this whole body there is scarcely a head of a family not possessed of a competency. They are a people not addicted to the giving of alms, but the younger men have the use of the capital of the elders, not as a gift, but as a loan, and by frugality and industry grow rich as they grow old. The same results might be expected to follow, in a measure at least, if we should provide cheap homes for our laboring Thrift would be encouraged, while poor. Thrift would be encouraged, while happiness, and education, and morality were promoted; and what would be to the advantage of the citizen would also prove a gain to

FEAR IN THE CABINET-THE STUMBLING-BLOCK OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

From the N. Y. Herald. Secretary Fish is the stumbling-block in the path of President Grant's administration. He sympathizes with the struggling Cubaus, but is opposed to the granting or belligerent rights to them. He is willing they should fight it single-handed, and just as willing that they shall be hung or shot. He is afraid that England and France will combine with Spain and whip not only Cuba, but us too, if we show any sympathy for Cuba. In these puerile sentiments and inane fears we are glad to see that he is alone in the Cabinet, and that the President and every other member is wisely in favor of a vigorous policy in the Cuban question. Mr. Fish is no doubt a very worthy old Knickerbocker, but as a statesman he is far behind the times, and his duty to the President and to the country calls him to resign at once the post he is not fit to fill. The position he has taken on the first live question presented to the Cabinet is one which, if maintained, will disgrace the administration and place it before world in the ridiculous attitude of making Andy Johnson's administration respectable by comparison, just as Buchanan made the administration of poor Pierce respectable. Ex-Secretary Seward, compared with and measured by Secretary Fish, becomes a perfect fire-eater. If we look back over the past eight years of Seward's administration, we see that he had some comprehension of the march of the American remultic and that he labored to prepare the attitude of making Andy Johnson's adminispublic, and that he labored to prepare the ground for our absorption of the whole archi-pelago of the West Indies.

To-day the question presents itself to us in a living and urgent form, and Secretary Fish is afraid, forsooth—is afraid that it may involve us in a war with France and England. While we do not share these childish fears, we cannot but perceive that at the present juncture in our domestic affairs a war with Rugland and France would be the greatest good that could happen to the United States. Thanks to one or two English privateers, under the Confederate flag, we have been de-

rican flag driven from the sea has left our shipyards without employment and our mariners without occupation. A naval war with England and France would restore us to our equal position upon the ocean, and nothing else will do it. Give our seamen but the shadow of a chance and they will soon make the ocean as unsafe to the British and French flags as the British privateers made it a few years since to the American. Our shipyards would leap to a new life, and our docks would throng with prizes before whose numbers the Alabams claims would sink into the merest

insignificance. But the man who to-day aspires to direct the foreign relations of the United States of America must lay aside all such childish fears. He must address himself to higher motives of action. Our great questions of public relations must be considered in their relation to the rights, interests, and dignity of the nation and of Christian civilization. And herein is where Mr. Fish shows himself to be incompetent to the pest he fills and to the duty he is called to discharge. The patriot Cubans are to-day bravely treading the winepress which our fathers so nobly trod before them. By their sacrifices and their deeds of arms they have raised a great American question, and we are called upon to decide it, not by the standard whether Spain is a friendly power or not, but whether they are entitled to the justice they ask at our hands. And in matters of purely American interest Spain has no claim to friendship from us. In these she has ever proved hostile to the American Union and to the principles of freedom which it cherishes. But beyond all this we are called by every impulse of Christian charity and of civilization to withdraw our friendly countenance from the bloodthirsty and furious practices of the Spanish volunteers in Cuba. They are a shame and a disgrace to the power that practises them, and still more so to the power that, without the incentive of either anger or ambition, palliates and excuses them. When Mr. Fish acknowledges that he would

falter in the path of duty, through fear of complications in our relations with France and England, he brings a blush of shame to every American cheek and casts a dark shadow across the hopes the country has entertained of the administration of President Grant. Rather would we trust the honor of the republie to the truly national impulses of the daring Admiral Porter than to the timid fears of a Secretary of State who seems to belong to the age of our grandfathers, and to be inspired in his counsels with the fears that animated the public mind seventy years ago. It was of such men that John Randolph declared they had to be kicked into a war with England. The sooner President Grant purges his Cabinet of such cowards, the better it will be for him and for his administration. Let him judge the spirit of the country to-day not by the cold-blooded fears of a Fish, but by the overpowering vote of the House of Representatives on the Cuba resolution, and the still more patriotic vote of the Senate of the United States, where but one man was found to vote for the ratification of the inane treaty with England for the settlement of the Alabama claims.

As for our relations with Spain and Cuba, we call upon the President to recognize at once the wishes of the people of the whole country, and comply with them by an immediate proclamation of neutrality between the belligerents. This will place those who are now struggling in Cuba, alone and unarmed, for that freedom which is so dear to all men, within the pale of honorable warfare, and save them from the fate of robbers and pirates. He should then entrust the maintenance of those neutral relations to the Secretary of the Navy, who is so ably assisted by Admiral Porter, and whenever Spain demands the reasons for our action let them be given by Admiral Hoff. But let us hear no more of the fears of the antediluvian Fish in the counsels of government, if it wishes to keep us out of disgraceful wars, and save the honor of the nation. If he will not retire from the Cabinet modestly and as becomes an ancient fossil, as he is, we advise President Grant to shelve him in the antiquarian department of the Patent Office as a warning to all our rising statesmen.

REJECTION OF THE ALABAMA TREATY. From the N. Y. World,

The all but unanimous rejection by the Senate of Mr. Reverdy Johnson's treaty for the settlement of the Alabama claims, will surprise no one who has watched the current of American feeling on that subject since the treaty was made public. The almost universal tone of popular sentiment in this country is opposed to making any concessions on this subject or abating any part of the claims ori-ginally urged by Mr. Adams in his very able communications to the British Government. It is not merely the strength of our case, however, which makes our people so inflexible. The necessities, or supposed necessities, of our demestic politics enter very largely into the determination of our public men, and render it improbable that any settlement will ever be reached unless the British Govern-ment shall concede all, or nearly all, that we have ever demanded. No political party wishes to go into a national election with the Irish population of the country universally hostile and indignant. This class of citizens have, as a general rule, voted almost unanimously with the Democratic party; but the impetuous patriotism which hurried so many of them into the war, where they were conspicuous for headlong bravery, has encouraged the Republican party to hope that, by adroit appeals to their military recol lections and fostering their hatred to England, it may divide the Irish vote. In the fervor of the Fenian excitement, most of the Republican journals and leaders openly fanned the flame. The Fenians constantly held up the depredations of the Confederate cruisers which were fitted out with the connivance of the British Government, as a means of enlisting the general sentiment of the country in favor of the Fenian cause; and by this means the prosecution of the Alabama claims has become so entangled with the Irish feeling, that no political party will dare settle them except on a basis of pretty rigorous justice. Concessions are quite out of the question, because our England-hating Irish citizens hold the balance of power in this country, and will vote against any party that consents to lower our just demands. It is idle to reason upon any prospect of settlement, if this powerful and exacting element be left out of view. No party can consent to receive anything less than justice without committing political suicide.

A minor consideration which has probably had some weight with the Republican Sonstors, is their unwillingness that the adminis-tration of Andrew Johnson should have the credit of settling this important controversy. President Johnson, Mr. Seward, and Mr. Reverdy Johnson are none of them statesmen whose credit the Republican party would vol-untarily promote. It is supposed that it will be a brilliant feather in the cap of President Grant if he settles this exasperating dispute, and gets better terms than were agreed to in the rejected treaty. Now that the negotiations must be begun anew, Secretary Fish will doubtless be ambitious to make his mark in the diplomatic history of the country by the honorable adjustment of claims which have been so long urged by our Government with-

prived of that large and remunerative share out any result. And we suppose that both he is the ocean carrying trade of the world which and General Grant would prefer to leave the once was our beast and our pride. The Amedispute unsettled rather than make any conheave to ourselves his embracing Ruebuck, siderable abatement of our claims, and thus give an advantage to their political opponents.

The prospect of a satisfactory settlement is slender enough, considering that Mr. Motley has been appointed Minister to London, nuless Mr. Fish should decide to transfer the negotiations to Washington. We hope this may be done. There is a very important precedent for such a course in the Ashbarton treaty, or treaty of Washington, as it has always been called in England, which settled the northeastern boundary after more than half a century of fruitless controversy. The British Government sent Lord Ashburton as a special envoy to manage that particular negotiation; and after a very able and amicable discussion between him and Mr. Webster, who was then Secretary of State, that long and difficult dispute was finally closed. The Alabama controversy is not less important, nor less difficult and irritating, than was that concerning the northeastern boundary; and it may, with equal propriety, be transferred to Washington and placed by England in the hands of a special envoy. If Mr. Fish should propose this precedent to the British Government he would have the approbation of the whole country, with the exception perhaps of Mr. Summer and the Boston mutual admiration society, who wish to glorify the egotistical man of letters who has been appointed Minister to London.

THE NEW RECONSTRUCTION BILL.

From the N. Y. World. Under the new Reconstruction bill for Mississippi, Texas, and Virginia, it is easy to see where everybody else's benefit is to come in save and alone the benefit of the citizens severally of those States. By the operation of this bill-and we know enough of reconstruction to know that all the elections under it will be declared "duly" carried, and all the carpetbag candidates pronounced "duly" elected -the radical leaders will gain, first, three ratifications of the proposed negro-equality amendment; second, six more surreptitious Senstors; and third, seventeen more bogus Representatives; the carpet-baggers will gain some nine thousand State offices, little and big; and about one hundred and fifty thousand more negroes will be lugged into the American body politic. These being the advantages presented to non-citizens of these three States,

what are the advantages proposed to the citi-zens themselves? We look in vain for one. Should they defeat these pretended instru-ments, they will nevertheless be declared carried, as in the cases of Alabama and Arkansas; should they secure Senators of some personal respectability, they will be refused admission, as in the case of Georgia; should they elect a full conservative delegation to the House, that entire delegation will be denied seats, as in the case of Louisiana; and if the delegation be half representative and half misrepresentative, the misrepresentatives will be admitted and the representative members excluded, as in the case of South Carolina; and lastly, if, foregoing all questions of Constitution, Senators, or Representatives, the effort be to secure good State officers, such men would be instantly ejected on the least hesitancy in lending their official influence to any scheme for the promotion of radical interests, as is evidenced by the fact that such is now the case by law in every one of these three States. The citizens, then, of Mississippi, Texas, and Virginia are brought face to face with this certainty, that if in any manner they may obtain, under this bill, any advantage as against Congress, such advantage is, by the very terms of the bill, to be legislated by Congress out of their hands. The last section of the bill reads :-

"Section 7. That the proceedings in any of the said States shall not be deemed final, or operate as a com-plete restoration thereof, until their action respectively shall be approved by Congress.'

In one point of view, this is a noble compliment to the citizens of these three States; for it means that the Congress embodying all the intelligence, all the culture, the wisdom, experience, and power of the radical party is so fearful that the sagacity of an oppressed and crippled people may, under that very Congress' own law, overcome it, that it pro-vides in that law a loop-hole whereby to creep out from the shame of an apprehended defeat at the hands of a superior political skill! In another point of view—and a more important point, because more practical—it is evident from this section that nothing is to stand unless Congress is willing to have it stand. Should an election go adversely to the radical interest, Congress will not approve such elec-tion, and, of course, such election will "not be deemed final or operate as a complete restoration," and in the same way in event of the success of any non-radical candidate. There will be no approval of such success, and consequently no validity in it. The lib erty of action, therefore, allotted the citizens of Mississippi, Virginia, and Texas under this bill is simply no liberty at all. They may vote themselves deaf and dumb and blind, and make all the negroes vote their way too, and triumph a hundred times over; and yet, at the mere breath of the Congress, everything may be ordered to the exact contrary of the way the election went. The cards, to use a simile befitting the nature of the transaction, are stocked. But one result is to be tolerated, and that the reduction of these three States to the condition of their reconstructed sistersmisrepresented by carpet-bagism abroad and robbed by pauper suffrage at home.

MR. JOHNSON AND MR. MOTLEY.

rom the N. Y. Times. If Minister Johnson's supreme self-confidence, which is quite sublime in its sufficiency, ever purposes to acknowledge receiving a shock, we should judge that it might now appropriately do so; for it is to be observed that his rosy optimism has been personal as well as rational, and quite recently he told the Manchester people that he "did not expect to be recalled until the diplomatic mission on which he had been sent was settled." But then, in the same speech, he warned his hearers against the "groundless reports" that the Senate would reject the Alabama Claims Convention; and we believe he has never undeceived them, if they were deceived-and perhaps not himself-to this

Rejected, however, the Alabama protocol has been, and Mr. Johnson will be recalled while all remains unsettled; and the comment which has been made on the nomination of his successor, however complimentary to the latter gentleman, is not entirely so to the former. It has, in short, been Mr. Johnson's ill fortune to dissatisfy all parties of his country-men, while but half pleasing the people to whom he was sent. Probably that body of Englishmen who are disgusted by what they call Mr. Johnson's "servility and sycophancy," but which at worst, perhaps, is only bis "soft sawder," is not very large; and probably, too, their tone is taken from American opinion on this side, or from a naturalized American opinion, as it were, on the other. But, at all events, Mr. Johnson gets, we re-peat, but a divided homage in England, and an almost undivided displeasure here.

It is rare, however, that wholesale and unsparing condemnation of this sort is well founded. We all knew the mistakes Mr.

his dining with Laird, his wining with Wharneliffe; nor to recount the blarney and buncombe, the sentimental soft sawder he has supplied to the mellow after-dinner hour; nor to repeat the defects, as well as merits, of his draft of a treaty for settling the Alabama claims. But, on the other hand, it is only fair to say that the instructions delivered to Mr. Johnson were, doubtless, entirely different from these which will probably be delivered

True it is that the late President was much more intent on his domestic than on his foreign policy, and did not examine the requirements of the latter with the zeal which marked his personal superintendence of the former-in his present speech-making tour, devoted to "vindicating the acts of his administration," he has not given so much as a glance at its foreign record. Nevertheless, it s well understood that in despatching Mr. Reverdy Johnson to England he did so to procure a pacific settlement of the Alabama claims, by a mutual commission or by arbitration, in addition to the other duties required of our Minister. That commission was arranged; and though it has not pleased Congrees and the people, yet we must remember that the convention was accepted as so far satisfactory to the administration as to be sent by it to the Senate for ratification.

On the other hand, the original draft of the protocol was not favorable to our country, and the late Secretary of State was obliged to amend it in several important and vital particulars. Mr. Johnson promptly secured the insertion of all these amendments; and while on the one hand the fact that he had not originally drawn them up is an argument against his diplomatic ability, yet the ease with which he afterwards procured the alterations indicates probably the favorable impression he had made by his complaisance and candor.

Mr. Johnson was doubly unfortunate in representing an administration out of favor, and in being politically opposed to the domi-nant party of the United States. All his faults and blunders were naturally caught up and magnified; and of these he made enough to have ruined a more popular

Mr. Motley, on the other hand, will at least go to England under better auspices. He will have a clearer exhibit of popular feeling on the Alabama claims to guide him than his predecessor had. He goes on the flood-tide of a new administration, not on the ebb of an old. He is in full political sympathy with the majority of the people he represents, in domestic as well as in foreign policy. He has in Mr. Adams a copy of success to follow as well as in Mr. Johnson a beacon of failure

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